

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Sharon L. Morris, R.N., and Dean E. Morris  
DATE: September 24, 1996  
SERIAL NO.: 08/286,413 GROUP ART UNIT: 2111  
FILED: August 5, 1994 EXAMINER: R. Gibson  
FOR: "Automatic Surgical Sponge Counter and Blood Loss  
Determination System"  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.: A94087US (51929/1)

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RULE 116 RESPONSE

Box AF  
Commissioner of Patents  
and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is a response to the Office Action dated July 25, 1996.  
A shortened statutory period was set to expire three months from  
the date of the action, making a response due by October 25,  
1996.

AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (twice amended) Apparatus for automatically counting  
used surgical sponges and determining the amount of blood contained  
in the surgical sponges, each sponge having a dry weight before  
being used to absorb fluids and an indicating means thereon for  
indicating the approximate dry weight of the sponge, the  
approximate dry weight of the sponge including the weight of the  
indicating means, the apparatus comprising:

(a) a container for containing used surgical sponges, the  
container having an opening through which used surgical sponges  
enter the container;

(b) detecting means, comprising a non-optical scanner means,  
for detecting a surgical sponge entering the container through the  
opening;

(c) first display means for displaying the number of sponges  
which have entered the container through the opening since a

Enter Amended. nvc

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FAX TRANSMISSION

#10k  
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N. Hewitt  
9/26/96  
2101

FROM:

Seth M. Nehrbass, Patent Attorney, Reg. No. 31,281

TO:

Examiner Randy Gibson  
Group 2100  
U.S. Patent & Trademark Office  
Washington, DC 20231

Tel.: 703-308-1765

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DATE: September 24, 1996

NUMBER OF PAGES, INCLUDING THIS ONE: 10

RE: U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/268,413

MESSAGE FOR FAX ROOM PERSONNEL:

Enclosed is a copy of a Rule 116 Response. Please deliver it to Examiner Gibson in Art Unit 2111 as soon as possible.

Thanks.

MESSAGE FOR EXAMINER GIBSON:

As we discussed today, one of the inventors and I will call you tomorrow at 3:00pm your time to discuss the enclosed response.

Thanks.

THIS COMMUNICATION IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE ABOVE RECIPIENT AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL. IF YOU ARE NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT THE UNAUTHORIZED DISSEMINATION OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED THIS COMMUNICATION IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTIFY THE ABOVE SENDER IMMEDIATELY BY CALLING 504-835-2000.

If there are any problems, please call 504-835-2000.

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